



Kaipara Te Orangakui
**KAIPARA
DISTRICT**
Two Oceans Two Harbours

01 May 2024

Attn: Martin Smith

Email: martin.smith@crowinfrastructure.govt.nz

CC: waterreformfunding@dia.govt.nz

32 Hokianga Road,
Private Bag 1001,
Dargaville 0340,
Northland,
New Zealand
P 0800 727 059
E council@kaipara.govt.nz
www.kaipara.govt.nz

Transitioning Better Off and Council Transition Support funding arrangements to support Local Water Done Well – next steps.

Tēnā koe Martin,

Kaipara District Council (KDC) received communication from the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) dated 18 April 2024, advising the status of existing Better Off Funding agreements, and requesting Councils to review those agreements/projects to identify redirection opportunities.

Under the current Council 3 Waters Transition Support funding agreement, KDC received \$647,000, of which we have claimed \$534,500. There is \$112,500 of unpaid funding remaining. Through the Better Off funding agreement KDC received \$4.040 million, of which \$404 thousand has been drawn down (being the 10% paid upon initial signing of the contract). This leaves a combined \$3,748,500 of DIA external funding that KDC could potentially apply to Local Water Done Well.

Tranche 1 of the Better off Funding package was committed by KDC to be used for design work, consenting, and initial site works / preparation. i.e., to get both Mangawhai and Dargaville Community Hub initiatives to “Shovel Ready”. To support the delivery of this work, KDC employed a fixed term Project Manager to deliver both initiatives. Engagement with the Kaipara community is currently underway to gain direction and expectations from residents around design and facilities, while the project has committed the majority of the \$400k draw down to the delivery of community engagement, conceptual designs, and land feasibility studies.

As a result of receiving Hamiora Bowkett’s letter, KDC staff will be presenting the DIA’s recommendation to identify opportunities to redirect any of our unspent Transition Support funding and uncommitted Better Off funding, to increase investment in water infrastructure or to help establish new water services delivery organisations to the June Council Briefing (5th June 2024). Staff will then be requesting a decision from Elected Members at the June Council Meeting (26th June 2024).

Acknowledging Central Government’s indication that there will be no further funding provided to support the transition to Local Waters Done Well, staff will ask Council to consider redirecting the

\$3.636 million in remaining Better Off funding and remaining Transition Support funding of \$112,500 (\$3,748,500 in total) to; the establishment of a new water entity; and to key waters projects planned for delivery in the 24/25 – 26/27 financial years.

Following Council decision-making in June, we will confirm our approach and will submit a formal contract variation if needed, when the Local Government Water Services (Transitional Provisions) Bill passes as proposed.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jason Marris', with a stylized flourish above the name.

Jason Marris
Chief Executive Kaipara District Council